

**Annual Report of the
Interactive Language Resource Center
2002-2003**

Submitted by Daniel E. Meyers, Director

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The Interactive Language Resource Center (ILRC) at Miami University is a restricted reference laboratory open to students, faculty, and staff of the following departments: French and Italian; German, Russian, East Asian Languages, and Hebrew; Spanish and Portuguese; and Classics.

The ILRC's mission is to serve the four language departments in actively implementing computer assisted language learning technology into foreign language education, to act as a central repository of foreign language related materials and multimedia resources, and to promote technological advances related to foreign language education through workshops, individualized assistance, conferences, and regular announcements.

Total officially logged attendance figures for this year indicate that **21,573** students visited the ILRC facilities. This brings an estimated **843,229** students who have visited the ILRC and its predecessor, the Language Laboratory, since these facilities began operations in the late 1950s. Attendance figures for this academic year by language and activity are shown on the bottom of this page and on the next page.

Attendance Figures for 2002-2003 Academic Year

Language	Fall 2002	Spring 2003	Totals
Chinese	71	96	167
Classics	69	116	185
French	1477	1739	3216
German	2310	3141	5451
Hebrew	8	166	174
Italian	526	277	803
Japanese	557	1345	1902
Portuguese	63	92	155
Russian	85	125	210
Spanish	3092	6026	9118
Guest	31	162	193
Totals	8,289	13,285	21,574

Attendance Figures by Day of Week and Time of Day

Day	Fall	Spring	Totals
Sunday	58	328	386
Monday	1786	2245	4031
Tuesday	1664	2896	4560
Wednesday	1804	2957	4761
Thursday	1638	3027	4665
Friday	1339	1832	3171
Saturday	0	0	0
Totals	8,289	13,285	21,574

Time	Fall	Spring	Totals
08-09 am	488	1149	1637
09-10 am	1316	1546	2862
10-11 am	1682	2370	4052
11-12 pm	1241	2217	3458
12-01 pm	1129	2131	3260
01-02 pm	831	917	1748
02-03 pm	698	948	1646
03-04 pm	470	987	1457
04-05 pm	126	263	389
05-06 pm	125	208	333
06-07 pm	75	322	397
07-08 pm	108	227	335
Totals	8,289	13,285	21,574

Attendance Figures by Activity

Activity	Fall	Spring	Total
Class Reservations	2089	2644	4733
Computer Usage	4459	9915	14374
General Homework	1358	356	1714
Satellite Viewing	3	0	3
Duplication Request	130	52	182
Testing	78	40	118
Video Viewing	172	278	450
Totals	8,289	13,285	21,574

Attendance figures are the results of raw numbers of students working in the ILRC. The time that students worked in the ILRC ranged widely, from an average of 20 minutes for students checking their E-mail to several hours for students working on term papers or students listening to the audio component of their assigned homework. No attempt was made to justify students on an hourly scale (for example, one student working in the lab for three hours would equal three visits).

During the course of the semesters, several classes had reserved the computer classroom. Attendance figures under "computer usage" incorporate students present for these classes. While the classes were in progress, a student assistant made a head count of participants in that particular class and logged them in under the appropriate language and activity.

Attendance figures for satellite conferences and for faculty and staff using the ILRC facilities were not incorporated into these figures. For reference purposes, however, these figures are given by the activity requested:

Activity	Fall	Spring	Totals
Video Duplication	88	63	151
Audio Cassette Duplication	15	6	21
Data Duplication	39	43	82
SCOLA Taping Request	65	65	130
Miscellaneous Equipment Checkout	13	9	22
Materials on Reserve Request	8	2	10
Totals	228	188	416

Montgomery File Server Statistics

Listed below are statistics for the Montgomery File Server Project (<http://montgomery.cas.muohio.edu>). The Montgomery file server project houses several foreign language initiatives, the largest being the “Virtual ILRC.” Every audio tape, most videos, and several multimedia projects which could be found in the ILRC this past academic year could also be found on the Virtual ILRC. This has led to all ILRC materials being available to students 24 hours a day, seven days a week so long as the server did not crash during the evening or late night hours. Along with the Virtual ILRC, the Montgomery File Server also housed several other projects and department web sites.

Of relevance to this report is that individual login data for each student viewing or listening to materials were not counted in the attendance figures above. Since the server does not yet have the capability to track individual usage, the following tables are listed to reference total usage of the Virtual ILRC as compared to other projects housed on this server.

For this academic year, the data obtained from the file server indicates that the 28% of total number of pages seen by users belonged to the Virtual ILRC. Of total file transfer requests by the server, 31% belonged to those using the Virtual ILRC. The breakout of statistics for the Montgomery File Server is as follows:

Directory Report	#Pages	#Requests	GB Data
Virtual-ILRC	263,840	507,425	136.16
Root	87,688	250,571	1.48
Other	509,009	1,568,577	355.16
Totals	860,537	2,326,573	492.80

Daily Summary	#Pages	#Requests	GB Data
Sunday	102,751	289,915	76.59
Monday	119,468	357,487	97.23
Tuesday	110,467	332,772	80.72
Wednesday	107,381	331,972	76.81
Thursday	261,790	625,845	86.42
Friday	96,419	244,307	46.97
Saturday	62,261	144,275	28.06
Totals	860537	2,326,573	492.80

Hourly Summary	#Pages	#Requests	GB Data
12:00 AM	26,856	72,225	17.71
1:00 AM	21,902	47,558	12.68
2:00 AM	19,306	35,304	5.71
3:00 AM	20,557	31,764	4.29
4:00 AM	17,333	28,256	2.75
5:00 AM	17,244	27,224	2.65
6:00 AM	18,269	31,296	4.31
7:00 AM	23,044	44,208	5.32
8:00 AM	28,816	70,225	9.22
9:00 AM	57,086	142,228	16.19
10:00 AM	72,615	190,053	28.97
11:00 AM	80,222	201,063	36.10
12:00 PM	41,137	126,862	30.65
1:00 PM	85,358	219,822	37.20
2:00 PM	36,104	122,733	31.89
3:00 PM	38,772	125,394	36.33
4:00 PM	35,575	113,603	33.35
5:00 PM	32,101	99,556	21.86
6:00 PM	26,570	86,270	23.96
7:00 PM	30,502	100,198	27.90
8:00 PM	33,414	104,253	27.56
9:00 PM	33,755	108,628	26.68
10:00 PM	33,991	109,056	27.33
11:00 PM	30,008	88,794	22.21
Totals	860,537	2,326,573	492.80

Monthly Report	#Pages	#Requests	GB Data
May 2002	35,368	57,948	9.95
June 2002	23,139	46,888	7.90
July 2002	34,445	59,837	10.12
August 2002	56,159	138,026	24.49
September 2002	105,180	318,788	58.47
October 2002	87,058	242,697	36.07
November 2002	82,090	236,044	40.88
December 2002	69,624	232,560	59.70
January 2003	116,627	306,306	83.74
February 2003	89,969	236,293	64.65
March 2003	70,996	181,007	38.90
April 2003	89,882	270,179	57.93
Totals	860,537	2,326,573	492.80

Services Provided by the ILRC

In addition to the topics already mentioned, the ILRC provides many different services to students, faculty, and staff throughout the academic year. The most common services performed are:

- Audiocassette and video tape duplication and distribution
- Video translation from PAL or SECAM into NTSC format
- Provision of foreign language materials, dictionaries and reference resources
- Archival of weekly SCOLA broadcasts in foreign languages
- Digital camera, camcorder, tripod, and video editing services
- Scanning, printing, digital video conversion, and server maintenance services
- Computer classroom upkeep and maintenance
- Various workshops on aspects of technology related to foreign language learning
- Technical support services to students in the ILRC
- Basic technical support services to faculty and staff in language departments
- Promotion of various satellite teleconferences and guest lectures
- Assistance to language classes utilizing ILRC resources
- Procurement of funding opportunities when available

Accomplishments Held This Academic Year

Committee Meetings and Commitments

The ILRC was involved in several Miami Computer and Information Systems committees this year. This year the director of the ILRC was selected to serve on Miami's Technical Support Representative steering committee. This committee directed the monthly activities of the TSR Program, which is a university-wide initiative run through Computing and Information Services. The director's expertise on Macintosh and PDA technologies helped to further technical research at the university level for new and coming initiatives.

The ILRC Director was also involved in regular weekly meetings with the College of Arts and Science's Information Technology group.

The Director has also committed to assist the department of Speech Pathology with their yearly testing of incoming Non-American Graduate Students in oral proficiencies. Testing was done three times a semester and results of the tests were forwarded to the Graduate School for proper placement in teaching or research assistantships.

Conferences, Services, and Workshops

As usual, the Director of the ILRC was involved in many faculty initiatives and projects. Those projects which received increased assistance from the director included the digitization of several Spanish and French movies, digitization of visual materials for the Classics Department, and classroom media materials development for the Department of GREAT.

The Director was also tapped to be the lead equipment and technical coordinator for the yearly Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO) conference, which were held at the University of California – Davis, in June 2002. Duties of this position will be to coordinate all technical aspects of the week-long conference, assess the needs of workshop leaders and hourly presenters, and to closely work with the hosting institution to make sure that all technical needs of the conference have been appropriately met.

The ILRC also was honored by Apple Computer, Inc. by becoming a "Profile in Success" site. Published nationally on Apple's Higher Education web site, the ILRC was featured for creatively integrating technology into the foreign language curriculum and providing wide access of technology to students at the university, which enhanced their experiences of language learning.

Equipment Upgrades and Maintenance

With the digital classroom paradigm in full working order now, the Director has had to focus his time on server maintenance and upgrades. Since renovations of the ILRC in the last year, the director has had to spend much more time with technology and computer support tasks than development of pedagogical materials. The addition of a technical support position would greatly enhance the professional activities of the Director and would sustain the labs with a reliable and dedicated professional to fix problems as they occur and to prevent problems as they are detected.

The ILRC was also able to purchase a new digital camera and a large format color printer from the Phelps and Beverly Wood Endowment. These items will allow the ILRC to help the language departments in the creation of publicity materials for their courses and projects.

Issues pertaining to the ILRC

The ILRC needs to obtain a full time technical support position to help in the daily maintenance of the technology needs of lab facilities. The Director is becoming more of a technical support person rather than a person assisting faculty with integrating new technologies in the languages.

Funding issues continue to be a concern. More funding regarding student employment and supplies budgets are needed to maintain the basic needs of the ILRC.

Acknowledgements

The smooth operation of the ILRC would not be possible were it not for several people who have helped and assisted at various times. The director wishes to acknowledge Stephen R. Sauer II from the Environmental Health and Safety Office for his assistance with technical advise and guidance on issues of technology, John Hughes for his guidance with space, budget, and funding issues, Reed Anderson for his guidance in matters of protocol and administrative issues, and to Guy Moore for giving his ever-helpful insight to potential solutions on various technical matters. The director also acknowledges the work performed by the various student assistants and graduate assistants in the ILRC. Were it not for their assistance, the ILRC would not be able to operate on a personal and serviceable basis.

Contact Information

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